

forces have been compelled to retreat still further. A similar statement came from the French War Office yesterday in admitting a retreat from Beaumont, Samogneux and Ornes.

It is possible the left wing has been forced to evacuate the Cote du Pouvre ridge, falling back upon Bras, or that they have only been forced back to the Cote du Pouvre defenses. The text of the French War Office statement follows:

"The fighting is still being carried on bitterly in the region north of Verdun, where the enemy continues his efforts on the front to the east of the Meuse. After the last engagement our troops retained their positions in spite of the repeated assaults of the enemy, which no longer counts his sacrifices.

"In the region of Douaumont the battle, which is still raging, has taken on a most sanguinary character.

"On the front of the Woivre the advance post which we held as lines of observation from Ornes to Hennemont since the battles of last year have been attacked by infantry forces from both sides of the Meuse. Our artillery on both right and left banks of the river repulses without ceasing the bombardment of the enemy.

"Nothing of importance has occurred on the remainder of the front."

A despatch from the front says French artillery is replying shell for shell, to the German fire.

Entire French Line Forced Back, The Gloomy View in London

LONDON, Feb. 26.—The only word concerning the German claim to taking the armored fortress of Douaumont comes through German sources. Further information is awaited anxiously, owing to the recognized strategic importance of this fort, which is the base of solid field works on a line of hills about six miles northeast of Verdun.

The last detailed information showed the French holding lines two and a half miles beyond Douaumont.

If Fort de Douaumont was evacuated it is feared this move was preceded by the collapse of the whole French front from the ridge of Cote du Pouvre eastward through Besanval.

It is considered certain, in view of the Douaumont position, that the whole French front defending Verdun from the north and northeast has been driven back into the fortress under the most terrible stroke delivered by the Crown Prince since the Verdun fighting began.

Paris has not yet officially confirmed the loss of the fort, but advices from the French capital say that the German loss is at least 150,000 men—a terrible price to pay for success.

From Douaumont, the Crown Prince can now bring his heavy guns to bear upon the forts of De Vaur and De Tavannes, immediately to the south, and upon Fort de Belleville, just outside Verdun and southwest of Douaumont. At the same time he can sweep the entire northern plain about the city with a fire which no infantry force can withstand.

It appears probable that in addition to losses elsewhere on the field nearly two German army corps have been completely wiped out in massed attacks against some of the strongest field positions the world has ever known.

There is no longer any doubt that the Germans are hurrying all their resources into the Verdun attack, hoping to blast a road to Paris and end the war. The enormous losses already suffered by the Germans is considered proof that the Kaiser has embarked on a venture planned to bring France to her knees.

The French line has now been thrown back for nearly four miles upon an eight-mile front, the greatest reverse suffered by either side since the September offensive of the allies, when the French swept forward on a fifteen-mile front in the Champagne, occupying German trenches to a depth of from two to three miles. In addition, the Germans have captured one of the key fortresses to one of the most strongly fortified positions in Europe.

The latest Paris despatches, however, reported terrific fighting in the snows along the ridge of Cote du Pouvre, about half a mile northwest of the fortress of Douaumont. Whole regiments of Germans were maddly assaulting the French armored trenches and redoubts on the hills 1,200 feet above the wooded plain.

GERMAN RIGHT WING CAPTURED BIG FORT IN DRIVE AT VERDUN

The conquest of Fort Douaumont was made by the right wing of the huge attacking army, which has secured the greatest advance in the assault on the French positions. Douaumont is somewhat to the east of what has hitherto been the principal line of progress, being situated four miles east of the Meuse River. The main force of the German attack, as indicated by the previous official communications, was being exerted southward along the Meuse.

The capture of Douaumont is the most important achievement since the inauguration of the German drive at Verdun—an onslaught which for fury and weight of men and guns has few precedents in the war.

Verdun is the strongest fortress of France, and is of particular importance from the fact that it offers direct communication with Paris, which is 150 miles to the west. Verdun marks the northern point of the great German defenses against attacks from German territory, the most southerly being Belfort, as between these two points lies the stretch of frontier on which Germany touches France.

The most important, probably, of the French forts along the Belgian and Luxembourg borders was Maunbourg, which was taken by the Germans with sacrifices to them estimated at the time, in September, 1914, between 50,000 and 140,000 men. Since that date no important fortress has fallen to the Germans on the western front. About the time Maunbourg was taken a desperate effort

was made to reduce Verdun, and some of the incidents of the fighting which then occurred were of a memorable character.

During the siege of Fort Troyon, near Verdun, in September, 1914, the commander of the fort ceased to reply to the bombardment. The Germans, it was said, believing that the fort had been evacuated, approached in order to destroy a redoubt. The commander of the fort then set fire to two carloads of straw inside the structure, and the Germans, convinced that their shells had started the fire and that they could easily take the place, advanced in close formation.

The French suddenly brought their machine guns to bear with a deadly fire and the bodies of 7,000 Germans were said to have been abandoned on the slopes below Fort Troyon.

RUSSIANS CAPTURE KERMANSHAH AND DRIVE BACK TURKS

Victory Opens Way for Junction With British Forces in Mesopotamia.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 26.—The important Persian oil of Kermanshah has been captured by the Russians after a three-day battle, according to delayed despatches received here today. The Russians are expected to march toward Mesopotamia, forming a junction with the British at Kut-el-Amara, 150 miles away.

Kermanshah is 250 miles southwest of Tehran and has a population of about 20,000. The routes from Baghdad, Shuster, Isfahan by way of Hamadan, and Suleimaniyah meet there and make the city an important center of traffic.

The Russian operations in Persia, which have culminated in the capture of Kermanshah, have had the local purpose of putting an end to the activities of hostile mountain forces and organized bands of Kurds, in addition to preparing the way for a junction of the Russians with the British expeditionary forces in Mesopotamia.

News of the city's capture came as a great surprise. The latest despatches reported the Russians pursuing a mixed force of Turks and Persian irregulars, offered by Germans, toward Kermanshah, but declared the city's natural defenses so strong that a long struggle probably would precede the city's capture. The capture of Kermanshah, from the Russian standpoint, is only surpassed by the victory at Erzerum.

Advices received here today said the Turks in Armenia, after a battle of several days, have been driven back to a point nine miles from Bitlis.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—Simultaneously with the official announcement of further Russian progress in Persia, in the mountainous region east of Baghdad, Constantinople reports a revival of British activity near Kut-el-Amara, on the Tigris below Baghdad, although it declares the attack was repulsed.

According to a despatch from a correspondent with Gen. Aylmer's column, who quotes wireless reports, Gen. Townshend's men at Kut-el-Amara are planning vegetable gardens around Kut, and the only pressing need is for talking machine needles. Such small wants are supplied by aeroplane, the aeroplane flying over the camp and dropping them.

The Turks, it is reported, some time ago gave up attempts to take Gen. Townshend's trenches by storm as a bad job.

A despatch to Reuters from Bucharest says Mr. Philippides, former Rumanian Minister of War, and an avowed partisan of the allies, will depart on Sunday for Petrograd to visit the Russian front as a guest of the Rumanian General Staff. The Rumanian War Office, says Reuters, has issued orders to all naturalized Rumanian citizens of military age to report for military service.

CHILDREN OVERCOME BY GAS.

Mother Found Them Dying When She Returned to Flat.

Rosie Gavan, six, and her three-year-old brother, Michael, accidentally turned on a small gas stove in the room at No. 335 Fifth Street, where their mother, Tessie, had left them this morning. When the mother returned she found both children unconscious on the floor. Patrolman Wagner summoned Doorman Maxwell from the Fifth Street Station, seven doors off, and they gave the children first-aid treatment while Dr. Orchard of Bellevue Hospital was getting there. The children were taken to the hospital and have a chance to live.

SENATE POLL SHOWS CORE BILL WILL NOT BE ADOPTED

Lewis Reports Majority Against Measure and Certain Support of Wilson.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Senator Lewis of Illinois, Democratic whip of the Senate, today notified Senator Stone that the supporters of the President were ready for the Gore resolution to warn Americans against sailing on armed merchantmen, to come to a vote at any time.

"We have made a thorough canvass of the Senate," Senator Lewis said, "and are convinced that there will be a safe majority against the resolution."

It was a certainty, he added, that the Senate would stand by the President.

Senator Lewis had prepared a resolution which would commit the Senate to an endorsement of the President's international policy in the present diplomatic crisis, but could not introduce it today under the rules. He may introduce it later.

Representative Glass of Virginia was today preparing a statement challenging Speaker Clark to prove his assertion that the House overwhelmingly favors a warning resolution. Glass insists the sentiment is exactly the reverse.

Representative Adamson, an spokesman for the Georgia delegation in the House, today announced that if any warning resolution is brought up all Georgia members have agreed to support the President.

They will offer a substitute resolution declaring that "while it is obviously foolish, reckless, showing criminal disregard of the rights, duties, obligations and peaceable relations of their Government for American citizens to take passage on ships of either belligerent, we have unbounded confidence in the ability and integrity of the President, whose constitutional duty is to conduct all diplomatic business, to discharge his responsibilities."

At the White House today it was estimated that the telegrams received supporting President Wilson in his stand on armed merchantmen as being about 14 to 1 against asking that Americans be warned off armed ships as advocated by Bryan.

TWO GUNS, SIX GUNNERS ON ITALIAN SHIP HERE

Seventh Armed Steamer to Reach New York Has Mounted Weapons Since German Decree.

There seems to be no disposition on the part of Italian merchant vessels to do away with guns and gun crews, despite the controversy between the United States and Germany. The seventh Italian steamer to reach the port of New York with guns mounted on her decks arrived this morning. She is the Napoli of the Italian Line, from Naples.

Well aft on the upper deck of the Napoli is the steering gear house, and on the roof of this two formidable 76-millimeter guns point astern. No attempt was made to conceal the guns, the barrels of which pointed the sun as the Napoli came up the bay. Six naval gunners are on duty and each has ammunition sufficient for several hundred rounds.

The Napoli is one of the largest of the Italian Line passenger vessels, but for several months has been used in carrying freight to Italy. The steamer sailed from New York on Jan. 9 without guns. She left Naples on her present trip on Feb. 14, the guns having been mounted since the announced intention of Germany to sink armed merchant ships.

COURT MUST DECIDE IF MAN KILLED SELF

Widow Contends Grant Was Murdered, but Insurance Company Alleges He Committed Suicide.

A lawsuit involving the question of whether a man committed suicide or was murdered will be brought to trial in the Supreme Court next week. The action is that of Mrs. F. Rogers Grant of Asheville, N. C., against the United States Casualty Company of New York.

Julian S. Eaton of No. 141 Broadway, attorney for the Grant, contends Grant was murdered. The insurance company says he killed himself. Grant, a real estate dealer of Asheville, had gone into the country Oct. 4, 1912, to inspect land. He had a man companion with him. Grant stepped into some woods and a few minutes later a shot was heard.

Grant was found dead with a bullet hole in his head. A revolver was found nearby. There were signs of a struggle.

It is hinted by the attorneys of both sides that a mysterious woman, friend of the dead man, will be called as a witness. Mrs. Grant is suing to recover \$5,000 on an accident policy her husband carried.

Health Board to Celebrate.

The New York City Health Department on March 9 will celebrate the semi-centennial of its foundation with a dinner at the Hotel Plaza. Among the speakers will be Mayor Mitchell, Henry Bruce, City Chamberlain, Surgeon General W. C. Gorgas, Dr. S. A. State Health Commissioner Hermann M. Biggs and Dr. Peter Bick of Canada.

Found Foundling in Bed.

A female foundling, five months old, was found in bed in the apartment of Mrs. Susan MacLau at No. 145 West One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Street today. There was a letter on the bed addressed to Mrs. MacLau and written by Anna Holton of No. 138 President Street, Newark, who said she was the child's mother.

Mrs. Gurnee Munn, Who Will Take Part in a Society Movie

Palm Beach Film Will Be Destroyed After Single Showing (\$5 a Ticket).

PALM BEACH, Fla., Feb. 26.—A photo play, with society leaders playing all parts and which depicts the rescue of a fair maiden from a villain who has carried her in an aeroplane to a deserted island, is being staged here.

It will be shown in the dining room of the Royal Poinciana Sunday night, March 5, after which the film will be destroyed. The exclusive cost refused to act unless the single exhibition was agreed to. Tickets for this exhibition will be \$5, and part of the proceeds will go to the American Ambulance in Paris.

The play is "The Island of Happiness." The heroine is Mrs. Gurnee Munn of Washington, formerly Miss Louise Wamamaker of Philadelphia. The hero is James H. Hyde, New York golf player, and his rival is an



MRS. GURNEE MUNN, WHO WILL TAKE PART IN A SOCIETY MOVIE.

MUNITIONS BROKER DISAPPEARED WITH \$9,375, IS CHARGE

Felix M. Levy Accuses George G. Dodge of Taking His Firm's Money.

Felix M. Levy, a lawyer, of No. 37 Liberty Street, called at the District Attorney's office today and filed a complaint against George G. Dodge, a member of the George G. Dodge Corporation, No. 52 Broadway. Mr. Levy asked that a warrant be issued for Dodge's arrest on a charge of larceny.

It is alleged Dodge, on Feb. 21, without the knowledge or consent of others in the corporation, drew \$9,375 from the Empire Trust Company and disappeared with it. This money, according to Mr. Levy, was the property of the corporation.

A report of the transaction was made to the police last Tuesday and Detective Barney McConville was assigned to find Dodge. He reported today that, according to the best information he has been able to get, Dodge is in Havana.

On the evidence presented by Mr. Levy, the District Attorney's office asked Chief Magistrate McArdoo for a warrant. Mr. Levy said he understood other complaints would be filed against Dodge.

Dodge came to New York from Norfolk, Va., at the outbreak of the war and went into the business of buying horses for France. His fortunes varied, but he learned the war contracting game, and last December persuaded John J. P. Connolly of No. 327 Fifth Avenue and Hugh Gordon Miller, a lawyer, to join him in incorporating a company to deal in war munitions. He was president of the corporation which started in with a paid up capital of \$500.

On Dec. 21, 1915, Dodge, acting for the corporation, entered into a contract with W. H. Taubser of No. 329 Broadway to deliver 1,000,000 cartridges at a certain warehouse on Feb. 21, 1916. On Feb. 15, representing the corporation, Dodge called on Mr. Taubser and the cartridges were delivered. He obtained, as an advance payment of 25 per cent., a certified check for \$125,000.

It is charged he deposited the check with the Franklin Trust Company, and on the same day drew out \$9,375, which he deposited in the Empire Trust Company. On Feb. 21, when he was unable to deliver the cartridges, Mr. Taubser called him up and questioned him and it is charged that he immediately drew the \$9,375 out of the Empire Trust Company and disappeared.

Schooner Wreck Blown Up.

The Coast Guard cutter Mohawk destroyed with explosives today the wreck of the schooner John Bossett, which was abandoned on fire the night of Feb. 10 and stranded one and a half miles south of west of Scotland Lightship. The schooner caught fire while on her way from Georgetown, S. C. The crew escaped.

Guide Closes Grip.

To keep the system in order to throw off Coda and Grip, the LAXATIVE BROMO GRIP, KIDNEY'S SIGNATURE on box, 25c. All.

TOWNS GOT FEE FROM INTERBOROUGH AFTER GAYNOR SWUNG TO CONTRACT

(Continued from First Page)

spending methods of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company.

Testimony taken today showed that the Interborough was losing \$109,250 a year on its coal bills. The company buys 475,000 tons a year from the Herwind & White Company and the Consolidated Coal Company for \$2.25 cents a ton. The same coal can be delivered by several companies and in the quantities needed for \$3 a ton. E. J. Herwind of the Herwind & White Company is an Interborough director.

Mirabeau L. Towns, the Brooklyn attorney, denied on the witness stand this afternoon that he had received \$5,000 from the Interborough for introducing President Shonts to Mayor Gaynor. He said he got it for laboring with Mayor Gaynor between October, 1909, and May, 1910, to persuade him to consent to the dual contract. But he admitted that the money was not paid to him until May, 1912, shortly after Mayor Gaynor did consent to the making of the contract.

TOWNS TELLS ABOUT THAT \$5,000 FEE.

Mr. Towns said he had known T. P. Shonts since December, 1909. "We discussed many times the proposed extensions of the Interborough," said Mr. Towns. "I spoke many times, beginning in October, 1909, with representatives of the Interborough as to a campaign against the tri-borough plan. I never demanded or received any retainer. After the consultations became formal I was requested to do certain things, which I attempted."

Q. Did you introduce Mr. Shonts to Mayor Gaynor? A. Mr. Shonts got out of the automobile and the Mayor recognized him. I did not get out of the automobile. I had made a previous appointment which had not been kept and communicated with both on this occasion.

Q. Were you requested by Mr. Shonts to arrange a meeting? A. They were both anxious to meet each other and clear up the situation.

Q. Mr. Shonts went down there to take the bill by the horns? A. I did not say that. They wanted to meet each other. I was surprised to read that I had received \$5,000 for making that introduction. I had really worked for the Interborough from October, 1909, to May, 1910. Mayor Gaynor had written an article in a magazine before his election criticizing the Interborough for trying to monopolize the situation in New York. It was decided by Mayor Gaynor, after I had talked with him, not to oppose the new plan, and he concluded not to do anything in the matter until after election.

Q. To whom did you report? A. To Mr. Campbell of the Interborough mostly. I saw Mr. Shonts two or three times. I tried to convince Mayor Gaynor that it would be better to confer a benefit upon posterity than to go on nursing a grudge.

Q. And so you removed Mayor Gaynor's opposition? A. I should not want to say that. I argued with him as well as I could.

Q. And for that you only received \$5,000? A. I didn't get it until two years later.

GOT THE FEE AFTER MAYOR CHANGED HIS MIND.

Q. When did you get the \$5,000? A. I think in 1912.

Q. Was that \$5,000 all you received from the Interborough? A. Every cent, including my disbursements of \$100.

Q. Your work was altogether with the Mayor? A. Yes; I stood between Mr. Shonts and the Mayor and exchanged their views. I kept on until I was told my services were no longer needed. I felt aggrieved and humiliated to read that I received \$5,000 for that introduction. It was for my hard and conscientious work.

Q. (By Senator Thompson.) How often did you see the Mayor? A. I should say two or three times a week from October, 1909, to May, 1910. I should be within the mark if I say I saw Mayor Gaynor forty or fifty times.

Q. Did you know that Mayor Gaynor refused to vote for the dual contract in July, 1911, and wrote a letter in which he used the word, "rationality"? A. I believe so. I have read that.

Q. But you weren't paid for two years after your conversations? A. I am painfully aware of that.

Q. Yet you got your check for \$5,000 soon after he changed his mind in 1912 and voted for the contract? How do you account for that? A. I don't know how to account for the Mayor's change of mind. Men are emotional. A man will laugh to-day and cry to-morrow.

THOUGHT OBJECT OF ADMIRAL SUIT WAS KNOWN.

J. Aspinwall Dodge, a lawyer since the 80's, was then sworn. Mr. Moss asked him to tell the origin of the Admiralty Realty Company's suit to prevent the dual contract whereby the City of New York became a partner in building the new subways.

"Mr. Shonts in July, 1912, testified in my office in an action," said Mr. Dodge, "that there was an agreement between the city and the companies that the question of the legality of the dual contracts should be submitted to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. This was not done, but afterward, on the suggestion of Mr. Nicolli, a taxpayer's suit was begun to settle that issue. Until now I had always thought that every one knew that this was the origin of the Admiralty suit. I always thought

that the lawyers and the court knew that the suit was instigated by the Interborough.

Q. Who financing were you holding when this information came out about the Admiralty Realty Co.? A. It was an action, replied Mr. Dodge, by the Continental Securities Co., against the Interborough, the Inter-Met, the Guaranty Trust Co. and the Windsor Trust Co. in an effort to convince the court that a combination of all the companies in New York to control all the railroads in New York was a monopoly in restraint of trade, contrary to the laws of the State of New York.

Thomas H. Gillespie then brought to the witness stand some reports dated Feb. 13, 1914. He wanted to keep them in his possession.

"They're under subpoena," said Mr. Moss.

"I'm perfectly willing," said Mr. Gillespie, "to answer any questions about transactions between our New York office and our Pittsburgh office, but I will not allow Mr. Moss to go through them. I will testify."

"No," said Senator Thompson. "I direct you to hand those reports to the committee."

"I shall not, on advice of my counsel," said Mr. Gillespie.

Mr. Moss assured Mr. Gillespie that all the committee wanted was to get at what was done with the money sent to Pittsburgh; that no private affairs of the company should be made public.

Mr. Gillespie still refused to surrender the papers.

"I now direct you to hand those reports to the committee," said Senator Thompson.

Gillespie still refused.

"Let a transcript of this be made," ordered the Senator.

"I will test," volunteered young Gillespie, "that during two years our New York office sent \$14,000 to Pittsburgh and received \$335,000 in return."

"That is not what we want," ruled Senator Thompson. "You are testifying as you choose. What we want is the record, the papers in the case. You may stand aside but remain in attendance."

Mr. Gillespie seemed not disturbed. Senator Thompson first ordered that a transcript of the testimony be sent to the District Attorney, but it was decided to take Gillespie before the bar of the Senate on a charge of contempt.

STANDING ARMY OF 140,000 VOTED BY HOUSE COMMITTEE

Figures Near War Department's Estimate—Gen. Wood's Plan Defeated.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—The House Military Committee late today voted for a regular standing army of 137,000 men, with a 5 per cent. allowance for recruiting, bringing the number up to 140,000, which is slightly more than the War Department asked. The Republicans and three Democrats carried the vote.

The War Department's estimate of additional officers for the regular army also was increased from 115 to 1,000.

The section for reorganizing the National Guard was framed to provide for a maximum strength of 250,000 men, but better than 100,000 must be recruited within two years.

The Senate committee has practically agreed on a provision for several years to fix the limit at the direction of the President. Those who take the instruction would be mustered into a special Federal reserve, pledging themselves to serve in the National Guard, but being quite apart from the regular army reserve or the National Guard. The plan resembles the Continental army scheme somewhat.

A resolution of Representative Tillson of Connecticut fixing the strength at 220,000, as suggested by Gen. Leonard Wood, was voted down.

Those who were absent when the votes were taken, favors a reconsideration of the question, but it is understood that it will not be reopened.

Extending the idea of Government manufacture of munitions of war, the bill will authorize an appropriation of \$20,000,000 for a plant to manufacture nitric acid, dynamite, gunpowder, fertilizers and for powder and high explosives in time of war. At present the United States is dependent for nitrates on Chile.

The plan provides for the leasing of the plant in peace to a private concern at a rate of 3 per cent. on the investment, with power to the Secretary of War to fix the price of fertilizers. In war time the plant would be seized by the Government. The plant would be located at some water power site controlled by the Government.

ACTRESSES ARE HURT AS BIG AUTO HITS TAXI

Driver of One Car Is Held After Crash at Ninety-Six Street and Broadway.

Anita Temple, a moving picture actress living at No. 801 West End Avenue, and Lois Whitney, also an actress of No. 56 West Fifty-fifth Street, are in Knickerbocker Hospital suffering from contusions, cuts and possible internal injuries, which they received when the taxicab carrying them south on Broadway, at Ninety-sixth Street this afternoon, was knocked over by a large automobile belonging to Henry C. Fox of No. 210 Riverside Drive.

The driver of the large car, Louis Elchner, No. 49 West One Hundred and Sixteenth Street, was arrested by Patrolman Hannan and taken to the West One Hundred Sixteenth Street station, charged with felonious assault.

The driver of the taxi, George Glynn, No. 1036 Third Avenue, had his head dressed by Dr. James A. Ryan, who also gave first aid to the injured girls before they were taken to the hospital.

RELIGIOUS NOTICES.

SERVICE OF REJOICING, celebrating the anniversary of the founding of Young Women's Christian Association in America, Carnegie Hall, March 1, 8:15 P. M. Address by Dr. Henry B. Oakes, pastor Madison Ave. Presbyterian Church, Chorus by the Young Women's Association, singing director Earl A. Wayne. Admission tickets at office of Metropolitan Board, 600 Lexington St., or any of the churches.

LOST, FOUND AND REWARDS.

LOST—In Prentiss Theatre, on Sunday, last, 32 East 124th St.

DOGS!

Dog fanciers will be more than interested in the big display of "DOGS" advertising that will swell the "Want" advertising pages of

The Big Sunday World To-Morrow!

Announcements of every advertiser of man's "most faithful friend" will want to read and keep.

Order From Your Newsdealer in Advance!